

1.0 GENERAL

A soldier pile retaining wall consists of steel H piles driven or placed in drilled holes and partially filled with concrete and either precast concrete panels set in the pile flanges or a cast-in-place reinforced concrete face attached to the front of the piles. Timber lagging is typically used for temporary support of excavations during construction. Design and construct soldier pile retaining walls based on actual elevations and dimensions in accordance with the contract and accepted submittals. Use a Soldier Pile Wall Contractor prequalified by the NCDOT Contractual Services Unit for cantilever retaining walls work (work code 3010). For this provision, “soldier pile wall” refers to a soldier pile retaining wall. Also, “panels” refers to precast concrete panels and “concrete facing” refers to a cast-in-place reinforced concrete face.

2.0 SUBMITTALS

Two submittals are required which include the soldier pile wall design and construction submittals. Provide 11 hard copies of working drawings and 3 hard copies of design calculations for the soldier pile wall design submittal and 4 hard copies of the soldier pile wall construction submittal. Also, submit an electronic copy (PDF on CD or DVD) of each submittal. Provide the soldier pile wall construction submittal at least 30 calendar days before conducting the soldier pile wall preconstruction meeting. Do not begin soldier pile wall construction until the construction plan is accepted.

A. Soldier Pile Wall Design Submittal

A Design Engineer is required to design soldier pile walls. Use a Design Engineer approved as a Geotechnical Engineer (key person) for a consultant prequalified by the NCDOT Contractual Services Unit for the cantilever retaining wall design discipline.

The Retaining Wall Plans show a plan view, typical sections, details, notes and an elevation or profile view (wall envelope) for each soldier pile wall. Before beginning soldier pile wall design, survey existing ground elevations shown on the plans and other elevations in the vicinity of soldier pile walls as needed. Based on these elevations, finished grades and actual soldier pile wall dimensions and details, submit revised wall envelopes for review and acceptance. Use the accepted revised wall envelopes for design.

Design soldier pile walls in accordance with the plans and Article 11.8 of the *AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications* unless otherwise required. Also, design walls for a maximum deflection of 1.5% of the exposed wall height or 3” (75 mm), whichever is less. When a note on plans requires a live load (traffic) surcharge, use a surcharge load of 250 psf (12 kPa) with a load factor of 1.75 in accordance with Article 3.11.6.2 of the *AASHTO LRFD specifications*. For steel beam guardrail with 8’ (2.4 m) posts above soldier pile walls, design walls for an additional horizontal load of 300 lbs/linear ft (4.38 kN/linear m) of wall. For concrete barrier rails with moment slabs above soldier

pile walls, design walls for an additional horizontal load of 500 lbs/linear ft (7.30 kN/linear m) of wall. Apply additional loads to the back of soldier pile walls at a depth of 2 ft (0.6m) below grade elevation.

Use a maximum H pile spacing of 10 ft (3 m). At the Contractor's option, use driven or drilled-in piles for soldier pile walls with concrete facing unless required otherwise on the plans. For soldier pile walls with panels, use drilled-in piles unless noted otherwise on the plans. Install drilled-in piles by excavating holes with diameters that result in at least 3" (75 mm) of clearance all around piles.

At the Contractor's option, use panels or concrete facing unless required otherwise on the plans. Design panels and concrete facing in accordance with the plans and Section 5 of the *AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications* unless otherwise required. Provide reinforcement of sufficient density to satisfy Article 5.7.3.4 of the AASHTO LRFD specifications. Use a minimum panel or concrete facing thickness of 6" (150 mm).

Provide temporary support of excavations for excavation heights greater than 4 ft (1.2 m) and timber lagging in accordance with the *AASHTO Guide Design Specifications for Bridge Temporary Works*. At the Contractor's option and when noted on the plans, provide a temporary slope in lieu of temporary support of excavations. Do not extend temporary slopes beyond right-of-way or easement lines. With the exception of fill sections or when using temporary slopes, backfill voids behind panels, lagging and piles with no. 57 stone. Place separation fabric between no. 57 stone and overlying fill or pavement section with the exception of when concrete pavement is placed directly on the stone.

Use 6 inch (150 mm) thick aggregate leveling pads beneath panels and concrete facing. Unless required otherwise on the plans, embed top of leveling pads a minimum of 1 ft (0.3 m) below where finished grade intersects the front face of soldier pile walls.

Provide geocomposite drain strips centered between each pair of adjacent piles. Attach drain strips to the excavation face, front face of timber lagging or back face of panels or concrete facing. Connect drain strips to leveling pads. Extend continuous drains along base of panels or concrete facing in front of piles and leveling pads. Provide drains meeting the requirements of an aggregate shoulder drain in accordance with Roadway Standard Drawing No. 816.02.

Unless shown otherwise on the plans, use cast-in-place reinforced concrete coping at top of walls for soldier pile walls with panels with dimensions shown on the plans. Extend coping or concrete facing a minimum of 6" (150 mm) above where finished grade intersects the back of soldier pile walls unless required otherwise on the plans. At the Contractor's option, connect coping to panels with dowels or extend coping down the back of panels a minimum of 6" (150 mm). When barriers are required above soldier pile walls, use concrete barrier rails with moment slabs as shown on the plans.

Submit working drawings and design calculations for review and acceptance in accordance with Article 105-2 of the *Standard Specifications*. Submit working drawings showing plan views, wall profiles with pile locations, typical sections and details of piles, drainage, temporary support of excavations, leveling pads, panels or concrete facing and reinforcing. If necessary, include details on working drawings for concrete barrier rails with moment slabs and obstructions extending through walls or interfering with piles, concrete barrier rails and moment slabs. Submit design calculations including deflection calculations for each wall section with different surcharge loads, geometry or material parameters. When using a software program for design, provide a hand calculation verifying the analysis of the tallest wall section. Also, submit design calculations for temporary support of excavations or slope stability calculations for temporary slopes, if applicable. Have soldier pile walls designed, detailed and sealed by the Design Engineer.

B. Soldier Pile Wall Construction Plan Submittal

Provide project specific installation information including a detailed construction sequence. For driven piles, submit proposed pile driving methods and equipment in accordance with Article 450-5 of the *Standard Specifications*. For drilled-in piles, submit installation details including drilling equipment and method for stabilizing holes. Also, submit details of excavations and temporary support of excavations and any other information shown on the plans or requested by the Engineer.

If alternate installation procedures are proposed or necessary, a revised construction plan submittal may be required. If the work deviates from the accepted submittal without prior approval, the Engineer may suspend soldier pile wall construction until a revised plan is submitted and accepted.

3.0 MATERIALS

Load, transport, unload and store soldier pile wall materials such that they are kept clean and free of damage. Damaged or deformed materials will be rejected.

Identify, store and handle drain strips and fabrics in accordance with ASTM D4873. Drain strips and fabrics with defects, flaws, deterioration or damage will be rejected. Do not leave drain strips and fabrics uncovered for more than 7 days.

Use timber lagging with a minimum allowable bending stress of 1000 psi (6.9 MPa) that meets the requirements of Article 1082-1 of the *Standard Specifications*.

A. Steel Piles

Use steel H piles meeting the requirements of Article 1084-1 of the *Standard Specifications*. For soldier pile walls with concrete facing, provide welded stud shear connectors in accordance with Article 1072-8 of the *Standard Specifications*. For soldier pile walls without concrete facing or veneers, galvanize steel piles in accordance with Section 1076 of the *Standard Specifications*.

For drilled-in piles, use excavatable flowable fill in accordance with Article 340-2 of the *Standard Specifications* and Class A Concrete in accordance with Article 1000-4 of the *Standard Specifications* except as modified herein. Provide concrete with a slump of 6 to 8 inches (150 to 200 mm). Use an approved high-range water reducer to achieve this slump.

1. Painting Piles

When a note on plans requires painting piles, smooth, clean, prepare and shop paint portions of galvanized piles that will not be encased in concrete below ground in accordance with Sections 442 and 1080 of the *Standard Specifications* with the exception of the following. Provide shop certification in accordance with Article 442-10 of the *Standard Specifications* regardless of the quantity of painted steel.

Smooth high spots and rough edges, such as metal drip lines, of galvanized surfaces in accordance with ASTM D6386. Clean galvanized surfaces to be painted with a 2500 psi (17.2 MPa) pressure washer. Allow surfaces to dry completely before beginning surface preparation.

Prepare galvanized surfaces to be painted by sweep blasting in accordance with ASTM D6386. Use an abrasive material and technique that roughens the surface while leaving base zinc layers intact. After sweep blasting, blow down blasted surfaces with clean, dry, compressed air free of contamination.

Apply paint to clean, dry surfaces free of visible zinc oxides or zinc hydroxides within 8 hours of surface preparation. Use the paint system below for painting piles gray. For painting piles other colors, contact the NCDOT Materials & Tests Unit for an appropriate paint system.

Coat	Material*	Dry/Wet Film Thickness (mils)	
		Min	Max
Intermediate	1080-12 Brown	3.0 DFT	5.0 DFT
Stripe	1080-12 White	4.0 WFT	7.0 WFT
Topcoat	1080-12 Gray	2.0 DFT	4.0 DFT
Total		5.0 DFT	9.0 DFT

* See Article 1080-12 of the *Standard Specifications*

B. Wall Drainage Systems

Wall drainage systems consist of drain strips, drains and outlet components. Provide Type 3 Manufacturer's Certifications in accordance with Article 106-3 of the *Standard Specifications* for wall drainage materials. Furnish certifications with minimum average roll values (MARV) as defined by ASTM D4439 for core compressive strength and flow rate properties of drain strips. For testing drain strips, a lot is defined as a single day's production.

Use at least 12 inch (300 mm) wide prefabricated geocomposite drain strips consisting of a non-woven polypropylene geotextile bonded to one side of an HDPE or polystyrene drainage core, e.g., sheet drain. Provide drain strips with cores meeting the following requirements.

Core Property	ASTM Test Method	Requirement (MARV ¹)
Thickness	D5199	¼ - ½ inch (6 – 13 mm)
Compressive Strength	D1621	40 psi (276 kPa)
Flow Rate (with a gradient of 1.0)	D4716	5 gpm (1 l/s) ²
¹ MARV does not apply to thickness		
² per ft (m) of width tested		

Use drain and outlet materials meeting the requirements of subsurface drainage materials in accordance with Section 1044 of the *Standard Specifications*.

C. Precast Concrete Panels

Provide precast concrete panels meeting the requirements of Sections 1000 and 1077 of the *Standard Specifications* and reinforcing steel meeting the requirements of Section 1070 of the *Standard Specifications*. Produce panels within ¼ inch (6 mm) of the panel dimensions shown in the accepted submittals. Damaged panels with excessive discoloration, chips or cracks as determined by the Engineer will be rejected.

A minimum compressive strength of 4000 psi (27.6 MPa) at 28 days is required. For testing panels for compressive strength, 4 cylinders are required per 2000 ft² (186 m²) of panel face area or a single day's production, whichever is less.

Unless an exposed aggregate finish is required, provide panels with a smooth flat final finish in accordance with Article 1077-11 of the *Standard Specifications*.

1. Exposed Aggregate Finish

When a note on plans requires panels with an exposed aggregate finish, provide an exposed aggregate finish for front faces of panels with a depth of exposure ranging from 0 to ¼ inch (0 to 6 mm). Before beginning panel production, furnish three 12" by 12" (300 mm by 300 mm) sample panels to establish acceptable variations in color, texture and uniformity of the finish. After the sample panels are accepted and within 30 days of beginning panel production, produce a reinforced test panel of the largest size that will be used for the soldier pile walls with the accepted exposed aggregate finish and in accordance with the accepted submittals. Acceptance of the appearance of the panels during production will be based on the test panel and accepted sample panels.

Use aggregate and cement from the same source as was used for the test panel and accepted sample panels to produce the panels. Provide access to visually inspect the entire finish of each completed panel and compare it to the test panel appearance before stacking panels. Replace the test panel with a new test panel every 3 months during panel production.

D. No. 57 Stone

Use standard size no. 57 stone meeting the requirements of Class VI Select Material in accordance with Section 1016 of the *Standard Specifications*.

E. Leveling Pads

Use Class VI Select Material in accordance with Section 1016 of the *Standard Specifications* for aggregate leveling pads.

F. Concrete Facing and Coping

Provide concrete facing and coping meeting the requirements of Section 1000 of the *Standard Specifications* and reinforcing steel meeting the requirements of Section 1070 of the *Standard Specifications*. Use Class A Concrete for concrete facing and coping in accordance with Article 1000-4 of the *Standard Specifications* and curing agents for concrete in accordance with Section 1026 of the *Standard Specifications*.

G. Masonry

Use masonry for brick veneers in accordance with Section 1040 of the *Standard Specifications*.

H. Separation Fabrics

Use separation fabrics meeting the requirements of Type 2 Engineering Fabric in accordance with Section 1056 of the *Standard Specifications*.

I. Joint Materials

Use joint materials in accordance with Section 1028 of the *Standard Specifications*.

4.0 PRECONSTRUCTION MEETING

Before starting soldier pile wall construction, conduct a preconstruction meeting to discuss the construction and inspection of the soldier pile walls. Schedule this meeting after all soldier pile wall submittals have been accepted. The Resident or Bridge Maintenance Engineer, Bridge Construction Engineer, Geotechnical Operations Engineer, Contractor and Soldier Pile Wall Contractor Superintendent will attend this preconstruction meeting.

5.0 CONSTRUCTION METHODS

Control drainage during construction in the vicinity of soldier pile walls. Direct run off away from soldier pile walls and areas above and behind walls. Contain and maintain no. 57 stone and backfill and protect material from erosion.

Perform necessary clearing and grubbing in accordance with Section 200 of the *Standard Specifications*. Notify the Engineer before blasting in the vicinity of soldier pile walls. Perform blasting in accordance with the contract. Install foundations located behind soldier

pile walls and within a horizontal distance equal to the tallest wall section before beginning soldier pile wall construction.

Do not excavate behind soldier pile walls unless a temporary slope is shown in the accepted submittals. If overexcavation occurs and is not approved, repair walls at no additional cost to the Department with a method proposed by the Contractor and accepted by the Engineer. A revised soldier pile wall construction plan may be required.

If a temporary slope is shown in the accepted submittals, excavate the slope before installing piles. Otherwise, install piles before excavating. Cure concrete for drilled-in piles a minimum of 7 days before proceeding with soldier pile wall construction.

Perform any welding in accordance with the contract. At the Contractor's option, welding may be performed in the field in lieu of employing an American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC) certified fabricator in accordance with Subarticle 1072-1(A) of the *Standard Specifications*. For field welding, use welders certified as a bridge welder in accordance with the NCDOT Field Welder Certification Program.

Use equipment and methods reviewed and accepted in the construction plan or approved by the Engineer. Inform the Engineer of any deviations from the accepted plan.

A. Pile Installation

Install piles in accordance with the accepted submittals and this provision. Contact the Engineer if the design pile embedment is not achieved. Do not splice piles. If necessary, cut off piles at elevations shown in the accepted submittals.

Install piles within 1 inch (25 mm) horizontally and vertically of plan location and with no negative batter (piles leaning forward). For soldier pile walls with concrete facing, be aware that alignment variations between piles may result in a thicker concrete facing in some locations in order to provide the minimum required facing thickness elsewhere. No additional payment will be made for concrete facing thicker than the minimum required. Locate piles such that the minimum required concrete facing thickness, if applicable, and clearance between the wall face and roadways is maintained for varying pile alignments.

For driven piles, drive piles to the specified elevations in accordance with Section 450 of the *Standard Specifications* with the exception of Article 450-6 or at the Contractor's option and when approved by the Engineer, use vibratory hammers to install full depth of piles.

For drilled-in piles, excavate holes at pile locations with the dimensions shown in the accepted submittals. If overexcavation occurs, fill to required elevations with no. 57 stone before setting piles. Before placing concrete, support and center piles in excavations and remove any fluid from drilled holes. After placing piles in holes, fill around piles with concrete to the elevations shown in the accepted submittals. Remove any fluid above the concrete and fill remaining portions of holes with flowable fill.

1. Pile Excavation

Use equipment of adequate capacity and capable of drilling through soil, rock, boulders, debris, man-made objects and any other materials encountered. Blasting is not permitted to advance excavations. Blasting for core removal is only permitted when approved by the Engineer. Dispose of drilling spoils in accordance with Section 802 of the *Standard Specifications* and as directed by the Engineer. Drilling spoils consist of all excavated materials including fluids removed from excavations by pumps or drilling tools.

If unstable, caving or sloughing soils are anticipated or encountered, stabilize holes with either slurry or temporary steel casings. When using slurry, submit slurry details including product information, manufacturer's recommendations for use, slurry equipment details and written approval from the slurry supplier that the mixing water is acceptable before beginning drilling. When using steel casings, use either the sectional type or one continuous corrugated or non-corrugated piece. Steel casings should consist of clean watertight steel of ample strength to withstand handling and driving stresses and the pressures imposed by concrete, earth and backfill. Use steel casings with an outside diameter equal to the hole size and a minimum wall thickness of 1/4 inch (6 mm).

2. Concrete Placement

Check the water inflow rate at the bottom of holes after all pumps have been removed. If the inflow rate is less than 6" (150 mm) per half hour, remove any fluid and free fall concrete into excavations. Ensure that concrete flows completely around piles. If the water inflow rate is greater than 6" (150 mm) per half hour, propose and obtain acceptance of a concrete placement procedure before placing concrete. Place concrete in a continuous manner and remove all steel casings.

B. Excavation

If a temporary slope is shown in the accepted submittals, construct soldier pile walls by excavating the slope in accordance with the accepted submittals. Otherwise, construct soldier pile walls from the top down by removing material in front of walls and in between piles as needed.

Excavate in accordance with the accepted submittals and in staged horizontal lifts with heights not to exceed 5 ft (1.5 m). Use timber lagging or some other approved method for temporary support of excavations in accordance with the accepted submittals. Remove flowable fill as necessary to install timber lagging and ensure at least 3" (75 mm) of contact in the horizontal direction between the lagging and pile flanges.

Install temporary support within 24 hours of excavating each lift unless approved otherwise by the Engineer. The installation may be delayed if it can be demonstrated that the delay will not adversely affect the excavation face stability. If the excavation face will be exposed for more than 24 hours, use polyethylene sheets anchored at the top and bottom of the lift to protect the face from changes in moisture content.

If the excavation face becomes unstable at any time, suspend soldier pile wall construction and temporarily stabilize the face by immediately placing an earth berm against the unstable face. Soldier pile wall construction may not proceed until remedial measures are proposed by the Contractor and accepted by the Engineer. A revised soldier pile wall construction plan submittal may be required.

Do not excavate the next lift until the temporary support of excavations for the preceding lift is installed.

C. Wall Drainage Systems

Install wall drainage systems as shown in the accepted submittals. Place and secure geocomposite drain strips with the geotextile side facing away from the wall face. Ensure that drain strips continuously contact the surface to which they are attached and allow for full flow the entire height of the wall. Discontinuous drain strips are not allowed. If splices are needed, overlap drain strips a minimum of 12" (300 mm) such that flow is not impeded. Connect drain strips to leveling pads by embedding strip ends at least 4" (100 mm) into the no. 57 stone.

Construct drains in accordance with Section 816 of the *Standard Specifications*. Provide drains with positive drainage toward outlets.

D. Leveling Pads, Panels and Concrete Facing

Construct leveling pads and drains at elevations and with dimensions shown in the accepted submittals. Construct drains in accordance with Section 816 of the *Standard Specifications*. Compact no. 57 stone for aggregate leveling pads with a vibratory compactor to the satisfaction of the Engineer.

Set panels against pile flanges as shown in the accepted submittals. Ensure at least 2" (50 mm) of contact in the horizontal direction between the panel faces and pile flanges. If contact can not be maintained, remove panels, fill gaps with joint filler and reset panels. Support panels securely until enough no. 57 stone or backfill is placed to hold panels in place.

Construct cast-in-place reinforced concrete facing in accordance with the accepted submittals and Section 420 of the *Standard Specifications*. Do not remove forms until concrete achieves a minimum compressive strength of 2400 psi (16.5 MPa). Unless required otherwise on the plans, provide a Class 2 Surface Finish for concrete facing in accordance with Article 420-17 of the *Standard Specifications*.

Construct concrete facing joints at a maximum spacing of 30 ft (9 m) unless required otherwise on the plans. Half-inch (13 mm) thick expansion joints in accordance with Article 420-10 of the *Standard Specifications* are required every third joint. Half-inch (13 mm) deep grooved contraction joints in accordance with Subarticle 825-10(B) of the *Standard Specifications* are required for the remaining joints. Stop reinforcement 2" (50 mm) from either side of expansion joints.

If a brick veneer is required as shown on the plans, construct brick masonry in accordance with Section 830 of the *Standard Specifications*. Anchor brick veneers to panels and concrete facing with approved brick to concrete type anchors according to the manufacturer's specifications with a minimum vertical spacing of 16" (400 mm) and a minimum horizontal spacing of 32" (800 mm) with each row staggered 16" (400 mm) from the row of anchors above and below.

Seal joints above and behind soldier pile walls between concrete facing and ditches with joint sealer.

E. Backfill

For fill sections or if a temporary slope is shown in the accepted submittals, backfill behind piles and panels or concrete facing in accordance with Article 410-8 of the *Standard Specifications*. Otherwise, backfill voids behind panels, lagging and piles with no. 57 stone as shown in the accepted submittals. Ensure all voids between panels and lagging and between piles, lagging and the excavation face are filled with no. 57 stone. Compact stone to the satisfaction of the Engineer. When separation fabric is required, overlap fabric a minimum of 18" (450 mm) with seams oriented parallel to the wall face.

F. Coping

Construct concrete coping as shown in the accepted submittals and in accordance with Section 420 of the *Standard Specifications*. When single faced precast concrete barriers are placed in front of soldier pile walls, stop coping just above barriers such that coping does not interfere with placing barriers up against wall faces. Do not remove forms until concrete achieves a minimum compressive strength of 2400 psi (16.5 MPa). Provide a Class 2 Surface Finish for coping in accordance with Article 420-17 of the *Standard Specifications*.

Construct coping joints at a maximum spacing of 10 ft (3 m). Half-inch (13 mm) thick expansion joints in accordance with Article 420-10 of the *Standard Specifications* are required every third joint. Half-inch (13 mm) deep grooved contraction joints in accordance with Subarticle 825-10(B) of the *Standard Specifications* are required for the remaining joints. Stop coping reinforcement 2" (50 mm) from either side of expansion joints.

Seal joints above and behind soldier pile walls between coping and ditches with joint sealer.

G. Coating Cleaning and Repair

After wall construction is complete, clean exposed galvanized or painted surfaces of piles with a 2500 psi (17.2 MPa) pressure washer. Repair galvanized surfaces that are exposed and damaged in accordance with Article 1076-6 of the *Standard Specifications*. Repair painted surfaces that are exposed and damaged by applying 4.0 to 7.0 mils wet of a topcoat to damaged areas with brushes or rollers. Use the same

paint for damaged areas as used for the topcoat when painting piles initially. Feather or taper topcoats in damaged areas to be level with surrounding areas.

6.0 MEASUREMENT AND PAYMENT

Soldier Pile Retaining Walls will be measured and paid for in square feet (meters). Soldier pile walls will be measured as the exposed face area with the wall height equal to the difference between the top and bottom of wall elevation. The top of wall elevation is defined as the top of concrete facing or coping or top of panels for soldier pile walls with panels and without coping. The bottom of wall elevation is as shown on the plans and no payment will be made for portions of soldier pile walls below bottom of wall elevations.

The contract unit price for *Soldier Pile Retaining Walls* will be full compensation for providing design, submittals, labor, tools, equipment and soldier pile wall materials, installing piles, excavating, backfilling and providing temporary support of excavations, wall drainage systems, reinforcement, leveling pads, panels and concrete facing, backfill, no. 57 stone, fabrics, coping and any incidentals necessary to design and construct soldier pile walls in accordance with this provision. If necessary, the contract unit price for *Soldier Pile Retaining Walls* will also be full compensation for coating piles and providing brick veneers in accordance with the contract.

The contract unit price for *Soldier Pile Retaining Walls* does not include the cost for fences, handrails, ditches, guardrail and barriers associated with soldier pile walls as payment for these items will be made elsewhere in the contract.

Payment will be made under:

Pay Item	Pay Unit
Soldier Pile Retaining Walls	Square Foot (Meter)